

# Job Description

Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Human  
Bioarchaeology

Archaeological and Forensic Sciences

School of Law and Social Sciences

Faculty of Management, Sciences and Engineering



## Brief summary of the role

Role title:	Postdoctoral Research Assistant
Grade:	Grade 8
Faculty or Directorate:	Faculty of Management, Sciences and Engineering
Service or Department:	Archaeological and Forensic Sciences, School of Law and Social Sciences
Location:	City Campus / some hybrid possible
Reports to:	Dr Jo Buckberry
Responsible for:	
Work pattern:	Full time. Primarily on-campus with some work-related travel as agreed with line manager. Fixed term for 34 months.

## Main purpose of the role

This full time 34-month post is to conduct research funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council on “Dead and Buried: Investigating changes in health during the Industrial Revolution using documentary records and human skeletal remains”.

The postholder will primarily be based at the University of Bradford but will be required to travel within the UK for data collection. Funding is available for the postholder to present their work at conferences, nationally and/or internationally.

### **About the project:**

The Industrial Revolution (IR) profoundly altered every aspect of life around the world. While we increasingly understand the impact of increased mechanisation of manufacturing and agriculture, rapid urbanisation and climate change, we only have snapshots about how these impacted the landscape of human health. We will address this challenge by investigating mortality (age-at- and cause-of-death) and morbidity (chronic health conditions and the lived experience) on a large scale in the UK and USA. Uniquely this research will interweave data gleaned from human skeletal remains and documentary evidence to investigate the lived experience of individuals and their risk factors for disease within a spatial framework. This project will place the lived experience of the people of IR centre stage and, with GIS tools, a working database will be created to encourage future scholarship and document preservation.

This role will focus on the bioarchaeological data from published and unpublished sources, developing from the pilot research (Buckberry and Crane-Kramer 2022). The post holder will lead data collection, liaising with archaeological units, museums and universities to access digital and paper skeletal records in the UK, and collate data collected by the project team at SUNY Plattsburgh under the supervision of Dr Gillian Crane-Kramer. They will work with Dr Justin Lowry to ensure the database integrates with the project GIS. Under the supervision of Dr Jo Buckberry, they will lead the statistical analysis on the bioarchaeological data. The postholder will present at national and international conferences, will lead the writing of at least one peer-reviewed paper and contribute to the project monograph.

## Main duties and responsibilities

1. Take a lead role in conducting bioarchaeological aspects of the project as described in the funding application, ensuring that relevant project milestones are met;
2. Take a lead role in the statistical analysis and interpretation of project data, in relation to the project research questions;
3. Undertake literature searches and synthesise research evidence as needed to support the project, keeping up with the latest developments in relevant areas;
4. Take the lead in dissemination of relevant aspects of the project through writing papers and reports for the funder and other stakeholders, writing publications arising from the project, presenting at seminars and conferences;
5. Co-develop outreach activities with the Thackray Medical Museum
6. Communicate or present research results within the research group;
7. Contribute to the development of further research ideas;
8. Social media oversight and co-production of content for news/press releases etc.;
9. Support organisation of project meetings;
10. Effectively undertake administrative duties related to the project and personal development.
11. Engage proactively in continuous professional development.
12. Any other duties as requested commensurate with the grade and nature of the post.

This document outlines the duties required at the current time to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and may vary to include other reasonable requests as directed by university management which do not change the general character of the job, or the level of responsibility entailed.

## Role holder: essential and desirable attributes

### Qualifications

<b>Essential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PhD in human bioarchaeology or related subject area</li></ul>
<b>Desirable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masters degree in human bioarchaeology</li><li>• First degree in archaeology or history</li></ul>

### Experience, skills, and knowledge

<b>Essential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong research background in human bioarchaeology and palaeopathology</li><li>• Experience of working with and interpreting large and diverse datasets</li><li>• Knowledge and experience of appropriate statistics and research data analysis in bioarchaeology</li><li>• Excellent written and verbal communication skills</li><li>• Excellent time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines</li></ul>
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<b>Desirable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prior research into the palaeopathology of the post-medieval period</li> <li>● Experience of integrating palaeopathological and documentary data</li> <li>● Database design</li> <li>● Experience with Geodatabase and GIS</li> <li>● Record of conference presentations and publication</li> </ul>
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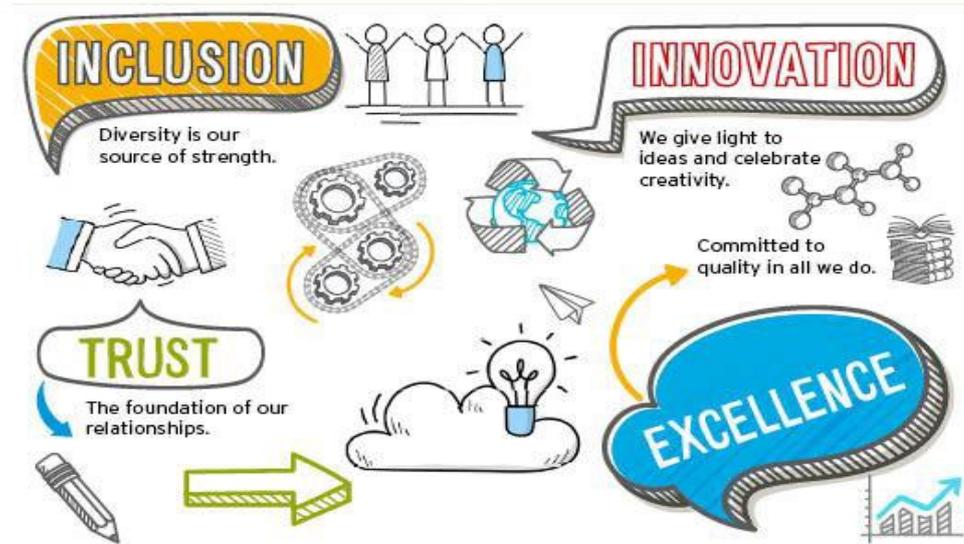
Personal attributes

<b>Essential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to work independently to solve relevant research problems</li> <li>● Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team</li> <li>● Takes personal responsibility for delivering a programme of work</li> <li>● Committed to continuing personal/professional development</li> <li>● Committed to engaging in positive working relationships</li> </ul>
<b>Desirable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A desire for an ongoing career involving research</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Desire to gain wider academic experience through the University</li></ul> |
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# About the University of Bradford

## Values



At the University of Bradford, we are guided by our core values of Excellence, Trust, Innovation, and Inclusion. These values shape our approach and our commitment to making diversity, equity, and inclusion part of everything we do – from how we build our curriculum to how we build our workforce. It is the responsibility of every employee to uphold the university values.

## Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

We foster a work environment that's inclusive as well as diverse, where staff can be themselves and have the support and adjustments to be successful within their role.

We are dedicated to promoting equality and inclusivity throughout the university and have established several networks where individuals can find support and safe places fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance. We are committed to several equality charters such as Athena Swan, Race Equality Charter, Disability Confident and Stonewall University Champions Programme.

## Health, safety, and wellbeing

Health and Safety is a partnership between employee and employer each having responsibilities, as such all employees of the University have a statutory duty of care for their own personal safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.

It is the responsibility of all employees that they fulfil a proactive role towards the management of risk in all of their actions. This entails the risk assessment of all situations, the taking of appropriate actions and reporting of all incidents, near misses and hazards.

Managers should note they have a duty of care towards any staff they manage; academic staff also have a duty of care towards students.

All colleagues will need to ensure you are familiar with any relevant Health and Safety policies and procedures, seeking advice from the Central University Health and Safety team as appropriate.

We are registered members of the University Mental Health Charter. This visibly demonstrates our commitment to achieving cultural change in student and staff mental health and wellbeing across the whole university, whilst supporting the vision of our People Strategy to create a culture and environment of transformational diversity, inclusion and social mobility, creating a place where our values come to life and are evident in our approach.

## Information governance

Employees have a responsibility for the information and records (including student, health, financial and administrative records) that are gathered or used as part of their work undertaken for the University.

An employee must consult their manager if they have any doubts about the appropriate handling of the information and records with which they work.

All employees must always adhere to data protection legislation and the University's policies and procedures in relation to information governance and information security.

Employees will be required, when and where appropriate to the role, to comply with the processing of requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## Criminal record disclosures and working with vulnerable groups

Depending on the defined nature of your work and specialist area of expertise, the University may obtain a standard or enhanced disclosure through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

All employees of the University who have contact with children, young people, vulnerable adults, service users and their families must familiarise themselves, be aware of their responsibilities and adhere to the University's policy and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

The University is committed to protect and safeguard children, young people and Vulnerable Adults.

Suitable applicants will not be refused positions because of criminal record information or other information declared, where it has no bearing on the role (for which you are applying) and no risks have been identified against the duties you would be expected to perform as part of that role.